

HALLOWEEN EDITION

THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

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Coach Simpson Receives Wrestling Award

Given "Lifetime Service to Wrestling" Distinction

By Alec McGuffey
Editor-in-Chief

Saturday night, October 28th, MBA's Frank Simpson was awarded the highest distinction a wrestling coach can receive, the "Lifetime Service to Wrestling" award. He will be permanently recognized with a plaque at the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and Museum in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Coach Simpson has been either wrestling or coaching since 1971. He first gained fame as a star wrestler at Father Ryan High School; he went on to wrestle in college at MTSU, where he also started his coaching career. His high school coaching career has taken him to Memphis, to Hendersonville, and finally to MBA, where we hope he will stay and coach for another twenty or thirty years.

The huge banquet room at the Cool Springs Marriott was packed with friends, family, fellow coaches, and former wrestlers. Among hundreds of guests, Coach Simpson's parents were there, and his five brothers were there, as were his wife and children. His oldest sons, and MBA graduates, Phillip, Patrick, and William were especially

distinguished in their military uniforms, and their pride in their father was evident both in their words and on their faces.

Upon receiving the award, Coach Simpson thanked his family and his fellow coaches, and he remarked that throughout his career he paid as much attention to building character as to developing champions. This most successful coach spent several minutes expressing his appreciation to all the people who have worked with him, who have taught him, and who have supported him. The ovation for this leader was long, loud, and decidedly deserved.

Other coaches honored at the event were Coach Simpson's brother Pat, the coach at Father Ryan, Luther Killian, former MBA coach, and Ronnie Carter, head of the TSSAA and one-time wrestling coach at Overton High School.

The evening provided a panorama of wrestling in Nashville during the past thirty-five years. There were old coaches and old referees, old wrestlers and old fans. Some of the coaches, referees, wrestlers, and fans, of course,

were not so old. MBA's own Mr. Gaither, ex-wrestling coach, who started his coaching career thirty-five years ago in the very year that Coach Simpson started wrestling, stated, "This is one of the great experiences of my life. Even though the event is for Coach Simpson and the others, many of the guests and I are having a wonderful time seeing each other for the first time in many years. I can remember, for instance, coaching at MBA when both Frank and Pat were wrestling for Ryan, I coached with Luther, and I coached against Ronnie Carter. Everyone of these men deserves this highest of honors, for each has given so much to the sport, and they all have had a remarkable influence on so many young wrestlers. Their wives deserve a lot of credit, also, for no sport takes so much time from the family as wrestling, with its weekend tournaments and holiday practices."

Others of the MBA family who were in the crowd applauding Coach Simpson's achievements were Mr. Tillman, the Bartholomew family, the Herron family, Mrs. Morrissey, Mrs. Sowell, Mr. Jenkins, Mr. Spiegl, Cooper Delk, Mr. Giffen, the Gabbert family, many past wrestlers, and too many others even to list here.



Coach Simpson receiving his award

MBA Sadly Says Au Revoir to Madame Drews

After 33 Years of Teaching

By Michael Anderson
Staff Writer

Most of us now know that one of our most beloved teachers, Madame Phoebe Drews, will be retiring following the end of this school year. Several of us, particularly the French students, have quite a few fond memories of her, ranging from the insane number of bonbons (candy) she always seems to have on her desk to the always fun human-pyramid. To be sure, she is unique, and there will never be a teacher quite like Madame Drews again. I spoke with her earlier this autumn to find out about her life in education and her plans for the future:

MA: What is your reasoning for retirement from MBA?

MD: Well, I'm old enough, and my husband wants me to be more available, to be around more. He retired last year, but he still teaches some at Vanderbilt. I also want to spend time with my dog.

Addie. There are health issues regarding arthritis and my spine that also contribute.

MA: How long have you worked at MBA?

MD: This is my 15th year here, and my 33rd year teaching.

MA: What is one of your fondest memories at MBA?

MD: The class a couple of years ago where all of the students left. Well, Spence Hobson transferred to Hillsboro, and Will Profit left. The remaining five students were priceless. They would

sometimes answer in Gregorian chants, higher and higher notes. They sent me flowers on Valentine's Day and gave me three dozen roses two days before the end of the year. We always had group hugs.

MA: What was the reason behind your leaving Harpeth Hall in 1985?

MD: The headmaster (there should never be a headmaster at an all girls school) fired four teachers without cause. We asked the Board of Trust to meet with the teachers remaining at Harpeth Hall to have them explain to us why the teachers were being fired. The Board of Trust refused to meet with us. None of us, therefore, had any recourse to the whim of the headmaster. Therefore, eleven of us resigned in protest.

MA: Have there been any regrets over the past years?

MD: No, every year I have loved teaching more.

MA: What do you plan to do in your retirement?

MD: A lot depends on my health. I would like to get certified in teaching English as



The jokes on the Laffy Taffys sure are funny

Continued on next page



THE BELL RINGER

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Honey Bear Happenings

An inside look
at the lives
of the
Honey Bears



By Noura Ismail
Editor of Logos

Harpeth Hall students have kept busy this first quarter despite the distractions from construction on campus. With the consistent bulldozing, hammering, and crossing of campus every class period, the girls have still managed to continue with all their regular activities.

In sports, the Cross Country Varsity team recently took part in the Regional Championship where all seven runners placed in the top 15. With a score of 31, they outdistanced their closest competitor, USN (76), by 45 points. Volleyball, Soccer, and Bowling teams have also dominated this season, along with the Golf team who placed 5th in the Regional

Tournament, breaking the school's record.

Technologically, Harpeth Hall completed its distribution of Smart Boards to every classroom at the start of the year. It also introduced tablet laptops to all faculty and new students. The 60 gigabyte computers are most admired for their reversible notebook feature. Using the stylus, students are able to take notes in their own handwriting on *OneNote*, *Word*, or *Journal*. This element has proven very useful as the school year progresses.

After a spectacular performance with MBA in *Guys and Dolls*, the Theater Department has been busy preparing for its newest play, *The Rivals*. This romantic drama, brimming with romantic entanglements, will premiere November 2-4. The Dance Company is also getting ready for its Fall Dance Concert that will celebrate 30 years of dance at Harpeth Hall. The first act will be a run of songs by Elvis Presley which will be followed by hip hop, ballet, jazz, and modern pieces.

The Spirit of Service Committee, perhaps the most renowned group at Harpeth Hall, is currently contributing to projects at Richland Place, the Pruitt Library, Habitat for Humanity, and the Nashville Zoo. The Committee's upcoming challenge will be participating in The Race for the Cure, an event that Harpeth Hall has graced with the most participants for over five years.

With ample activities on and off campus, students have managed well this first

quarter. They still, however, are anxious to come back from the holidays to a new, construction-free, Upper School.



Madame Drews Announces Retirement

Continued from page one

a second language and do that on a volunteer basis. I would like to study Arabic because I want to become more informed about the Arabic world. My husband teaches "The Ancient Origins of Religious Conflicts" at Vanderbilt, and I would like to take that course.

MA: Will you still maintain contact with MBA, via clubs or organizations?
MD: I'll come over and watch basketball and listen to the football games, especially since I live less than a mile away. I'll come to the plays and concerts as well. I might offer classes for English as a second language at MBA to teach people in the community.

Whatever Madame Drews decides to do, we all know that she will put forth the same amount of effort which we have seen during her interactions with her students. Many of us will miss the Friday speeches and the heartfelt "Bonjour Mes Elèves!" Again, there will never be anyone who can replace Madame Drews at MBA and in our lives.

The Mothers Club would like to thank all the MBA boys for their efforts selling Spaghetti Supper tickets this year!

Congratulations to the GRAND PRIZE winners for the 2006 Spaghetti Supper Ticket Sales:

1st Place –
Hayes McCord
2nd Place –
Andrew Wright
3rd Place – Ian
Sharbel
4th Place –
Patrick Duffey
5th Place – Ben
Sutter



Serving up some spaghetti

CLASS PRIZE Winners were:

7th grade –
Christopher
Norman
8th grade – Davis
Thraikill
9th grade – Ryan
Venable
10th grade –
Michael Moore
11th grade – John
Burch
12th grade – Chase
Altenbern

Lundy Listens

By Dr. Jonathon Lundy
Staff Writer

Dear Dr. Lundy,

Several weeks ago, I was at [name of local coffeehouse removed for legal reasons] when I spilled my drink on my arm while picking it up from the counter. It was hot, and I suffered an extremely mild skin burn as a result. The coffee cup warned that its contents were hot, but did not mention the possibility of a skin burn. Though the skin healed quickly, it remained sore for a couple of days after, adversely impacting my performance in a volleyball game the day after the incident, a game which I consequently lost. I have gone through much emotional suffering from the humiliation this loss has caused, all the result of the coffee. Do I have grounds for a lawsuit?

-Considering Coffee
Compensation

Dear Considering,

While I'm not technically a lawyer, I'm fairly certain that the answer to your question is: Yes! If the cup didn't explicitly warn of the dangers of exposure of the beverage to the skin, then it is your right to be compensated for the suffering which the company has caused you to



Dr. Lundy ponders the meaning...of everything.

undergo – it is simply too much for the consumer to have to make the correlation between a hot fluid and the potential to burn the skin. You don't even really need to have a lawyer or an arguable case, as the mere threat of a lawsuit should bring a big check your way. More importantly, it will ensure that a warning about the dangers of coffee exposure is placed on the cup, and that's good news for everybody...

just think what would happen to the children, future victims of mild skin burns, if this issue is ignored any longer!

Furthermore, the legal process will help take your mind off of your incessant suffering. By establishing a convenient scapegoat in the coffee company, you will come to feel much better about yourself, as you no longer need hold yourself accountable for this accident. And you can use the financial compensation to go do something nice for yourself that will put this whole incident out of your mind and into your past, like purchasing a coffee maker (so you never have to set foot inside of that establishment again) or hiring a personal volleyball trainer (so you can exact some well-deserved and good-for-the-psyche retribution). Yes, taking advantage of this lawsuit opportunity will certainly return you to sound mind.

-Dr. L

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Save Darfur!

By John Bibb
Staff Writer

Hundreds upon thousands are dying. The government is losing control. Children are suffering and parentless. Violence is escalating. No, this is not a reference to Iraq. Instead it is a general description of the genocide that is happening every day in the Sudanese region of Darfur.

Many Democrats and Republicans who are upset with the way things are going in Iraq toss around the fact that 2800 soldiers have died (estimated on MSNBC.com) and around 37,000 civilian have died (according to the BBC) in order to emphasize their point that things in Iraq are not going well. These numbers are dwarfed when compared with the genocide that is occurring in Darfur, which has only been occurring for three years. More than 200,000 people have died in the carnage, and more than 2.5 million have been displaced (according to CNN.com) at the hands of rebels from the Janjaweed militia group.

The Sudanese government has been unwilling to allow the U.N. to give any help to the suffering in Darfur. U.S. President Bush declared that this was genocide two years ago, but little has been done to stop the mass murders. It is time for America to take a stand. It's time for something more than just declarations of genocide.

What can you do? First, you can write George Bush, Sen. Frist, and your Congressional representative. After all, in Bush's 2005 inaugural address he declared, "And I can pledge our nation to a goal: When we see that wounded traveler on the road to Jericho, we will not pass to the other side."

Writing isn't the only thing you can do. You can contact your place of worship, and ask them to pray for aid to come to the Sudanese. You can also donate to any of the numerous organizations set up to aid Darfur. Raising awareness and getting involved in local groups can also be a great help. (Go to <http://www.savedarfur.org/page/group> for a listing of groups organized to help save Darfur.)

Darfur is not beyond help. So write your congressman, and raise awareness. The voices of Darfur are crying out; will you answer their pleas?



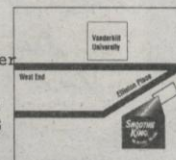
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Local Latin Teachers Converge on MBA

By Alvin Kim
Staff Writer

During the second week in October, the MBA Latin department hosted a gathering of Latin teachers from all around middle Tennessee schools. The meeting has been held annually, with its location switching among schools in the area. Its purpose is generally to gather Latin instructors together for an afternoon of camaraderie and, in addition, to give these teachers an opportunity to discuss their different Latin programs. Mr. George Rietz from BGA adds that "the meetings help to encourage methods of teaching and getting ideas from the internet." Most of the Latin teachers

attending stated they rarely went to many Latin conventions; as Mrs. Peggy Ross from FRA stated, she tended to go to "about one meeting...although it varies."

The majority of the visiting teachers who came to the MBA gathering were already acquainted with the Latin teachers here, including Mrs. Christeson, Mr. Gaither, Dr. Seay, and Dr. Gaffney. Nevertheless, the meeting began with the MBA Latin department introducing themselves and then inviting the visiting teachers to state their names, backgrounds, and current schools. The teachers then discussed issues facing all Latin teachers in the area. Dr. Gaffney also demonstrated the Latin Archives on the

MBA website, a tool to help teachers with their classes for any level with any number of students, and the guests were excited to hear that this valuable resource is offered for their use, free of charge.

As the discussion continued and teachers were asked to assess the support of their schools for Latin, Ms. Joyce Ward, from Harpeth Hall,

Mr. Rietz, and Mrs. Ross all agreed that they feel their Latin program does receive adequate attention, although it is difficult to get as much support as Spanish because of its currently overwhelming popularity in their schools. Mr. Rietz teaches about forty total students while Mrs. Ross teaches about sixty.

Overall, both the MBA teachers and the visitors considered the



Mr. Gaither enjoys some refreshments

meeting a great success and look forward to other opportunities where teachers can come together to improve and discuss their own programs.



One of these three actually teaches Latin!

College Visit Tips Courtesy of the ACT

QUESTIONS TO ASK DURING A CAMPUS VISIT

1. What activities and services are available to help students get settled (academically and socially) during their first year?
2. How big are the classes?
3. (Ask students) How easy is it to meet with faculty?
4. (Ask students) Are you able to register for the classes you want?

5. What is the total cost of attending the college?
6. What types of financial aid does the college offer and how do I apply?
7. Are all freshmen assigned to an academic advisor?
8. Where do most freshmen live?
9. Can I take a tour?
10. What activities are available for students?
11. Who teaches the courses for first-year students?
12. How successful are the college's graduates in finding jobs?
13. What services (such as transportation and shopping) are available locally?
14. What is there to do on weekends? Do most students stay on campus or leave on weekends?

History Club Starts Year Strong

By Tom Wall
Staff Writer

The History Club has launched its second year at MBA, and the year promises exciting events. Led by history teachers Dr. Bailey, Mr. Sharbel, and Mr. Lester, the Club was created last year for students interested in both local and worldwide history.

The Club held multiple activities, all open to the entire student body and not just to members of the History Club. Trips to the City Cemetery, as well as to multiple sites of the Battle of Nashville, were held last year for people interested in our city's past.

The Club also held a Leadership Movie Series after school, featuring the T.V. series *Band of Brothers*, for the purpose of instilling the values of being a leader to all those who attended.

This year, the Club plans to continue the Leadership Series, featuring other films as well as new field trips planned to places such as colonial period Mansker's Station, The Capitol



Building, Belle Meade Plantation, and Traveler's Rest.

Led by President Mark Piana, Vice President Tom Wall, Secretary Joseph Walkowicz, and Sergeant-at-Arms Tipper Austin, the Club was created specifically for student participation, with the faculty sponsors acting only as advisors and fellow club-members. Events held by the History Club are open to all students and teachers alike, and the Club is looking forward to a great year.



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Art. Antiques. Flowers

New Faces Bring Fresh Teaching to MBA

By Pat Killian
Staff Writer

The retirement and untimely departures of certain English teachers at the end of last year left the department like this year's injury-ridden football lineup: full of holes. Yet the losses have brought about gains with the arrival of three new teachers to the Hill. Mrs. Cherie Roberts, Ms. Nicole Serrano, and Ms. Ana Anderson have joined the distinguished ranks of the Montgomery Bell Academy faculty, and to keep them from remaining strangers to the student body, *The Bell Ringer* has kindly done some probing into the lives and experiences of these welcome newcomers.

Although she is not seen often in the high school, Cherie Roberts is fast becoming a favorite among the seventh-graders. With a room adorned with South Park characters and desks topped with chess boards, Mrs. Roberts shows she knows teenage boys. She has, by the way, two sons, Nathan, 9, and Jackson, a member of the freshman class. Her fun personality is rivaled only by her talent for teaching. Equipped with a Masters in English, specializing in Multicultural Literature, from Belmont University, Mrs. Roberts spent two years teaching at Aquinas College. Before education,

however, she worked for fifteen years as a nurse at St. Thomas Hospital, involved with oncology and AIDS; in fact, she took care of the first two AIDS patients in Tennessee under much media attention.

For a personal anecdote, Mrs.

Roberts says that the first time she went scuba diving she got trapped in a bed of reef sharks. She calls the experience "one of the most terrifying and exhilarating hours of my life." Fun, talented, and motherly, Mrs. Roberts is destined to become a legend in the MBA community.

Nicole Serrano fills many niches around campus as a debate coach, English teacher, and college counselor. She hails from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and attended college at Dartmouth University, where she was a government major. After graduating, Ms. Serrano's skills were immediately recognized, and she was hired by Lexington High School in Lexington, Massachusetts, where she

worked as a debate coach and teacher for two years. At MBA she has already proven to be a splendid new asset to the nationally-ranked debate program and a great help to seniors struggling with college essays. Hopefully she will stick



Ms. Serrano caught off guard

around to teach and instruct for many years to come.

Bringing messenger bags full of energy to the English department is Ms. Ana Anderson. In her characteristic tote she carries more experience and knowledge than any one else her age and

is eager to share everything with her new students. She was born in Brazil, moved to Tennessee at the age of four, and grew up working the land on her family's farm. Ms. Anderson always loved English, so naturally she majored in English at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and went on to gain her master's degree at Penn State, where she subsequently taught Introductory Rhetoric and Composition. Although the majority of her time is taken up with teaching now, her abundant energy spills over into a plethora of other activities, such as playing basketball, cycling, cooking, traveling, and, of course, reading. In the classroom, her passion for the subject is obvious, and her upbeat attitude and vigor are sure to enthrall all of her pupils.

Our three new teachers make the English department and entire school community stronger than ever. On top of being excellent educators, they also bring diversity to the predominately male teaching staff; the administration made superb decisions. Students, be sure to welcome your new instructors as best you can and thank them for choosing Montgomery Bell Academy.

New Teacher Interview

Jeff Trembley

By Will Henry
Staff Writer

Jeff Trembley, a new instructor at MBA, has begun his teaching career as a teacher of the seventh-grade IPS course. Born and raised for the first few years of his life in a "one stoplight town" called Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, with a population of about 1500 people, he later moved to Tennessee after his father took the position of men's head swimming and diving coach at The University of Tennessee.

While in Knoxville, he attended Maryville High School, then he later continued his studies at UT. At Tennessee, Jeff was a team captain of the track team, where he participated in the field events as a pole-vaulter. He also was an eight-time SEC Honor Roll recipient. On his experience at Tennessee, Mr. Trembley says, "I enjoyed competing at the same college my dad coached because we are very close, and I would get to eat lunch with him about once a week."

During this school year, Mr. Trembley will teach the new seventh-graders IPS and give them their first experience of science at MBA. He enjoys the classroom setting at MBA because he feels that he can nurture students down a path that will allow them to maximize their full potential.

He will coach swimming this fall and during the spring athletic season he



will help out with the track team by coaching the pole-vaulters, during which he will not only coach but will even occasionally jump with the other athletes.

While Mr. Trembley will most likely never set a desk on fire to intimidate students or throw flash paper at sleeping students like an IPS teacher whom we need not name, he does say, "If a student is ever bored during the spring and wants some comic relief, tell him he can come to the track and watch me try to pole vault again."

Please make Mr. Jeff Trembley feel welcome as you see him around campus.

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Ninth Grade News

By Seth Akers-Campbell
Staff Writer

Novice debate has started the season extraordinarily. Master extemporaneous speaker Aaron Lutkowitz has not only contributed to the novice effort but has also placed fourth at the St. James tournament and second in the tournament at Samford in Varsity Extemporaneous speaking. On September 5, Wesley Wilson, Matt Vanek, and Patrick Lovett placed second at the Baby Bell competition at MBA. A few weeks later, on September 22 and 23 at Vestavia Hills High School, Hershel Mehta and Patrick Lovett won the competition, with Wesley Wilson and Matt Vanek placing fifth. Also at Vestavia, Hershel Mehta was second speaker and Wesley Wilson was fifth speaker. This group will be a force to reckon with in debate in the years to come.

Freshman Football has finally concluded an extremely successful year, compiling a 6-1 record, losing only to Independence in the first game of the season. The six straight victories included a come-from-behind victory over Father

Ryan on a game-winning 31-yard field goal by John Michael McGinn, a success which Kevin Carr claims was made possible because "the o-line did wonderfully in the blocking." Campbell Haynes, tears of excitement not dimming his perceptions, shouted: "a come-from-behind victory over Ryan is cool." The team ended with a great victory over McCallie, capped by Brad Bars's punt return for a touchdown.

After multiple run-offs, the new Freshman Class Officers are:

President: Lewis Armistead
Vice-President: Matt Bellet
Treasurer: Joshua Liang
Secretary: Aldon Boston-Boyd
Student Council Representatives: Holden Mobley, Daniel Todd, Daniel White, and Tee Griscom. Honor Council: Jordan Herring and Alex Apple.

Excelling in Mr. Gaither's Latin II Honors' class for the first quarter are Kevin Carr, Fitz Lassing, Daniel Todd, Josh Liang, Sam Denney, Will Henry, Wiley Hunt, and Eric Mace. The betting is that one of these fellows will surpass Dr. Seay's best and win the medal.



Junior Jargon

By Ian Snyder
Staff Writer

The Junior Class has already taken the lead in many aspects of MBA's academic, athletic, and social life this year. Although football season has ended on a disappointing note, the Junior Class players can hold their heads up high, knowing not only that they ably filled in many spots on the ever-expanding injury list, but also that they have gained starting experience that will help them take a leadership role next year.

As the golf season drew to a close, Juniors John Burch and Rob Broadhurst helped the team finish fourth at the state meet. These two standout golfers promise to make next year's golf team a force to contend with by the time the state meet rolls around again.

Make sure to look for Juniors such as Christian Waddey, Elliott Sutter, Tyler Games, Ben Bartholomew, and Luke Bellet to play key roles in the upcoming wrestling season. Juniors are also sharpening their skates and their high-sticking techniques in anticipation of the hockey season, and Juniors Chris Fike, Rob Broadhurst, and Clay Christain are set to make their mark on the ice this year.

MBA's theater program will also be relying on the talents of Juniors such as Garrett Anglin and Bennett Davidson, who will be playing leading roles in the upcoming Malcolm Morrison-directed version of *Le Misanthrope*.

December brings a memorable moment in the Junior Class's MBA career: the Junior Ring Ceremony. This

year's event will be Thursday morning, December 7, as Junior parents and their sons enjoy breakfast and a moving rite-of-passage in the MBA Paschall Theater.

Finally, the success of the biggest event of the MBA social season, the Junior-Senior prom, rests on the fund-raising activities of the Junior Class. The class is already looking ahead toward prom by continuing to raise money at the concession stands this winter. In addition, the poinsettia sale, which is one of the biggest fund-raising events of the year for the Junior class, is coming up as well, and the class hopes that every family at MBA will purchase some of these top-quality flowering arrangements to decorate their homes for the holidays.



Some of MBA's howling legends.

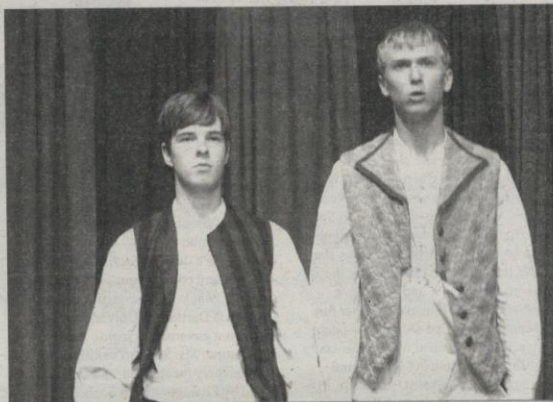
Sophomore Scene

By Fadi Pulous
Staff Writer

The sophomore class has contributed greatly to the varsity football team. Spencer Wise has had some opportunities to start and is showing great potential for the coming years. The game against McCallie proved to be a

Park can all be seen striding with championship form all over west Nashville.

Swimming and hockey have just begun. Several swimmers are from the sophomore class, such as Jimmy Balser, Caldwell Buntin, and several others. Hockey is underway, with Crawford Standard, Allen Miller, and a few other



Garrett and Anglin are overjoyed

good start for Spencer with two big throws. Patrick Crum has also shown great talent in the few games he has played. As a sophomore, Patrick has done a fantastic job when he has been healthy. Unfortunately, Patrick's body has proven fragile this year, and his season ended during the first quarter of the McCallie game, as he left the field with a broken collar bone. Scott Bubis, Hooper Paty, Tom Corcoran, and Reggie Ford are all giving a boost to the Big Red football team. We want to thank all the guys who have been playing JV or Varsity football.

Sophomores also are a big factor for the cross-country team. Taylor Land, Matt Ractliffe, Richard Brunsting, Nick Williams, Baker Mulherin, and Chunbum

sophomores looking for some playing time with this year's hockey team.

The sophomore Six Flags trip was a big success. After having a nice breakfast, sponsored by the mothers, we departed at around 7:00 on a Saturday morning. The girls from Harpeth Hall joined us on our trip down to Atlanta. Everyone had lots of fun testing out several new roller coasters, and the relatively short waiting lines proved to be very helpful in testing out all the rides. Scott Ramsey said, "Dude, the Goliath was awesome." Everyone agreed with Scott's opinion about this gigantic roller coaster. Some other popular rides included the Superman, Ninja, Viper, and the Batman. The Harpeth Hall girls provided everyone with snacks on the way there and on the way back. The exhausted group of people returned to MBA at around 10:30 p.m.

The sophomores have had some pretty successful debate outings. At the New Trier Debate tournament in Chicago, the team of Fadi Pulous and Alec Martin started off 2-0, but then fell to 3-3. However, it was a good learning experience for them. Sam Page and Rahul Sastry had a 3-2 record at the Samford tournament. Karl Mecklenborg and Micah Lutkowitz went 1-4, while the surprising team of JB Hardin and Chunbum Park went 2-3. During the last weekend of October the sophomores traveled to Atlanta and Iowa.

And, of course, we can not forget Alex Martin, who starred in MBA's entry into the one-act play competition in early October.



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MBA's New Exam Schedule

By Corey Metzman
Staff Writer

Every year before the Christmas Break we all look forward to two weeks of rest and relaxation, yet we never feel completely relieved because of the ever-looming midterm exams...after the break. Despite our perception of the midterm examinations as some far-away trials, separated by the joyous celebrations of holidays and exciting vacations, we can't be totally carefree because we know they're coming. Nonetheless, every year before winter break, we gladly go about normal school business while watching our Harpeth Hall counterparts hurriedly trying to finish up their semester's work and prepare for their pre-break exams. Alas, for the 2007-2008 school year, we will have a change here at MBA: midterm exams will be before Christmas Break.

This scheduling adjustment ought not to come as a surprise, for every year there are the usual grumblings among students requesting a change. In the past, the administration has defended having exams after the break by claiming that many major universities in the U.S., including superb institutions such as Harvard and Princeton, have their examinations after the winter break.

Many proponents of pre-break exams support this schedule format because it allows for a mental break in the academic year. Such a break allows students to spend their time over the break without the ominous clouds of midterms on the post-break horizon. Yet

academically-speaking, this break gives self-motivated students a long time period over which to spread out their review. This low-key study time seems a good idea to those who use it, but it is doubtful how many actually take advantage of it. But this break before exams can also put students in a double-bind if they truly value having a time for mental relaxation.

Either students can take the break and fall somewhat behind on studying for exams when school starts, as some teachers teach new material for a few days after the break, or they can study during the break but lose some of their free time.

Although it appears that there are few objections to the changes among students, it's a different story with the faculty. Granted, many of the faculty would support a change in exams, yet there are others who firmly believe that the current post-break exam period is more beneficial for a variety of reasons. Among these are that the current system allows for a more meaningful review period. Latin teacher and former MBA student Dr. Rick Seay agrees: "The difference in the plans is that the current MBA system has given the exams a uniquely individual and important place in the school calendar. There is an emphasis placed upon midterms as an important teaching tool for what exams are and how to prepare

adequately for them. In the pre-holiday exam model, there is less emphasis on them as an instructional tool in and of themselves, and more of a notion (whether real or merely perceived) that they are a final hurdle to overcome to get to a break.

As a sideline, pre-holiday exams also make January and February practically interminable months in the school calendar

for both students and teachers alike." Dr. Seay's final point ought not be taken lightly. With exams before the break, the second semester would begin immediately after the break, whereas the current system allows for more variety with a combined two weeks of review and exams preceding the commencement of second semester classes. Without this variety, we would have normal classes from the first week in January until Spring

break, which is quite a long time.

Despite the advantages of having exams after the break, there are salient reasons for this change. Although, according to Academic Dean Alan Coverstone, this change is not to cure any major problems, he did enumerate a few benefits. Among them are a re-orientation of the school calendar which requires school to start a week earlier. Although at first glance this doesn't appear to be at all beneficial, such an early start allows for more days off during the year, including a longer fall break. These extra days in the




calendar would most likely allow for an extra spring holiday during the aforementioned long period of normal classes until Spring Break. Also, this shift better synchronizes MBA's schedule with those of other independent schools in Nashville, making the August back-to-school time easier on families.


Particularly intriguing is the new schedule's effect on athletics. Mr. Coverstone elaborated on this advantage: "Athletic schedules match better with the change because in the past we've had two football games before school even started. Also, it's a bigger deal in the winter because we miss games in December when other schools are having their exams, and we have difficulty re-scheduling them to accommodate our schedule."

Regardless of the real impact of this change, many students are vigorously in favor of it. Senior Benton Harvey said, "I would be in favor of this change because the students would not forget all of the first semester material over Christmas Break and hurriedly have to relearn all of that material. Further, having exams before Christmas Break should do away with all of the homework that teachers seem to assign over Christmas Break." This sentiment is not just restricted to the upperclassmen, for the promising freshman debater Wesley Wilson agrees, "I think that the change from January to December is an excellent idea. It makes it possible not to worry about school over the break, which I hate. Also, we will have our semester grades sooner which also makes the New Year less tedious." Hopefully this change will be beneficial to both students and faculty, but we won't know how the new system really works until the exams come around next December.




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Students Question the College Process

Examine Your Motives

By Scott Schwartz and David Smith
Features Editor and Staff Writer

An MBA student immerses himself in an abundance of activities: sports, debate, theater, various clubs, and service, to name a few. The school encourages us to fill our plates with as many activities and projects as we can. But how much is too much? We find ourselves with much to do and little time to do it, yet we keep piling the activities and projects onto our plates. Why? Is it because of the increasing competitiveness in the college process? Is it to get into a dream college? Do we do these things out of genuine interest, do we learn out of curiosity, do we help the needy out of compassion?

It is hoped that we strive so vigorously from virtue, from curiosity, and from compassion, but by extending our interests and involvement to so many facets, many feel that we are losing the sincerity of our motivation.

We should discover our passions and pursue them. Although we encourage activity in many fields,

expanding involvement in debate, theater, football, community service, church, peer tutoring, and the Big Red Club, while maintaining good grades in 5 AP classes, helps promote a perfect résumé, but underlying this litany of activities is overextension, resulting in a diminution of passion.

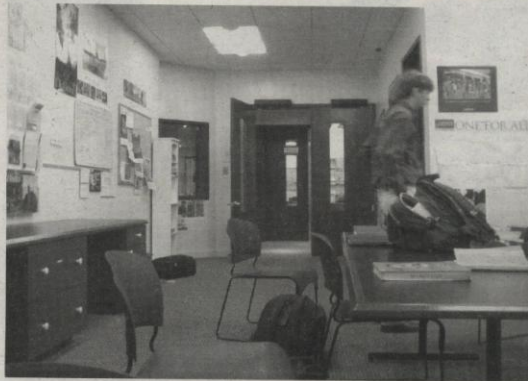
The question becomes: why do we go to a preparatory high school? If it is simply to get into college, then, sure, do everything and anything you can to pursue a flawless résumé of mind-boggling achievements. Awards will await

you on Awards Night, most likely more than one; prestigious societies will accept you, most likely more than one. Because if you have the criteria for one you most likely have it for all – since the competitive world in which we live values facts, criteria and achievements over subtle acts of true merit.

But remember that your perfect résumé will never be perfect. The elite schools have 1000 kids who have accomplished the same things that you have; wrestling captain, student body president, and 1600 SAT- Stanford has

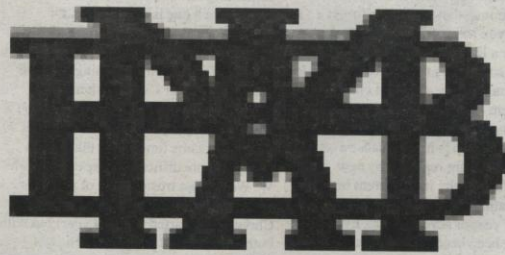
lots of those. Of course, we have to sell ourselves to colleges to some extent, but we must not sacrifice ourselves for a prestigious college that we cannot even guarantee is the right place for us. A college acceptance letter is not the apex or the nadir of your life, especially in an evolving world where success in college is more important than attending a prestigious university.

In the end, the colleges have to sell themselves to you – it's your decision where to go to college, it's your decision whether or not you help with Titans Parking, or work concessions. Don't do these things only because of service hours; do them because you want to, because you have fun doing them, because your pursuits would not change if you didn't plan to go to college. **Would you still do that activity if you didn't need the service hours? We don't need service hours, the community needs them.** That conceptual misunderstanding by many students illustrates the backwardness of the process all together. And although it is controversial to argue this point, since good is, in fact, coming of these service projects regardless of the motives of the participants, we must consider why we do things, why we choose to help others, why we learn about the passive pluperfect subjunctive. These principles are what we will carry with us, not the credentials we earned.



How much time do you spend here?

To the Lindsley Ruth Award and Its Recipients...



ROLL RED!!!

Car of the Issue

Teacher Edition

Dr. Clark's 1980 Dodge Aspen

By Jonathon Lundy
Staff Writer

Few cars in the faculty parking lot – or any MBA parking lot, for that matter – attract more attention than Dr. Clark's world-famous (infamous?) automobile. I recently sat down with him for a few questions; here's what I found out about this piece of history:

Jonathon: Let's start with the basics, for the uninitiated out there... what do you drive?

Dr. Clark: I drive a 1980 brown Dodge Aspen. I'm the original owner. I'm kind of attached to it.

J: Has it treated you well over the years?

Dr. C: Oh, definitely, definitely. It's been the only car I'll ever need. When you start at the top, you wouldn't be satisfied with anything else.

J: So, you're confident that you will hold onto it forever? That it will hold out forever?

Dr. C: Yeah, it will hold out. Mr. Spiegel used to have an old Volvo – he parks next to me – and he used to claim that he'd be

driving his car after mine was in the junkyard. I believe his is in the junkyard now, and I'm still driving mine. In fact, when I was hired by MBA twelve years ago, some people – including my wife – already thought it was a pretty junky car, and she asked if they would let me park it on campus; it's still being parked on campus. I think it will hold out for a long time to come.

J: Some pundits on the Internet claim that the Aspen is one of the ten worst cars of the millennium. Are these people just full of it?



Tammy the tease winks at Jonathon

Dr. C: Oh, you can find anything on the Internet; just because it's there doesn't mean it's true. You see, jealousy can lead to some real ugliness in people's behavior... a kind of envy, in my opinion.

J: In your years with this car, have you come up with any good nicknames for her, or is she just The Aspen?

Dr. C: I didn't come up with this nickname, but the right end is dented in a little bit and the headlight is askew, and there's a little bit of damage in the front near the right headlight. A friend of mine noted that it looks like it's winking at you, so he started calling it "Tammy the Tease," and that stuck, so sometimes I call it Tammy.

J: Is Tammy's floorboard really missing, or is that just an urban legend?

Dr. C: This one will explain where Tammy's dent came from... when I was living in East Tennessee and working at Oak Ridge, I was driving one fall day when I stopped to take a picture. I was in a hurry, because – for one of the few times in my graduate career – I had a date that night, but I saw a beautiful juxtaposition of a red maple tree and a green evergreen, with a mountain in the background. I pulled over, and when I took my foot off the brake, the car didn't roll, so I thought it was in park. (The gear indicator had broken long ago.) I went to take my picture, but when I came back, the car was gone. It had been in drive, not park, and had gone down the road and driven straight into a dry creek bed. I thought it was totaled, but I was underestimating the Aspen, as many have before and since, and I ended up driving it home. The only thing I had to do was replace the headlight. The date did not go so well, though; I would have been better off spending the evening with Tammy.

J: Has someone ever made you an offer to buy the Aspen?

And there it is, folks; another tale of MBA's asphalt exposed for the entire world to know.

An Interview with Coach Woolsey

Behind the Podium

Pat Killian
Staff Writer

Mr. Woolsey is known as the energetic math teacher famous for the "Woolsey Method" of teaching algebra. But, strangely, most of his accolades are unknown to the student body. In truth, Mr. Woolsey is possibly the most experienced and accomplished member of MBA's faculty. In this interview, the Bell Ringer hopes to shed some light on the untold experiences and career of a very remarkable man.

Bell Ringer: How long have you been at MBA?

Mr. Woolsey: I came here in the fall of 1990, so this marks my seventeenth year.

BR: How is it to have gone through so many colleagues and classes and students?

W: Well, in seventeen, or actually I've been teaching for thirty-six years, you, uh, you have so many students over that amount of time, that you never forget a face, and you never forget the actual student or a little bit about how good they were, but sometimes the names are hard to recall. I can walk by a student on campus that I taught two or three years ago, and I remember a lot about him, but just picking the name right up is hard because every year the names are replaced by new names. With faculty it's different because you're dealing with the same people for the whole year or several years. Ever since I've been here we've had a lot of new faculty members, and some go on to new things, and we've had a lot of new faces, but I think I would remember everybody. I am not sure I'd remember the names, but I think I'd remember quite a few.

BR: Have you had a favorite year?

W: Uh... I don't know; it's hard to say. Probably my first year here because I felt like it was new, and it was a challenge, and

the students were really well prepared, and the classes went well, but I've gotten something out of every year, so it's hard to say which one is my favorite. Of course, I've also coached along the way, and if I had a good season, that helped, too. But I've gotten something positive out of every year I've been here.

BR: So, you were a teacher and a father here at the same time. Does that make your job more difficult? more enjoyable?

W: Well, I just trusted both of my boys (Matthew graduated in '99 and Christopher started the next year) but with both of my boys I just told them I expected them to realize the opportunity they had, to appreciate it, and to never put me in a situation where they did something wrong and I had to deal with it. But they were good boys; they were good students; they never got in trouble; they played sports; they were well-liked; so, I never had a problem.

BR: Great. So, baseball: your favorite sport?

W: Really, when I was in high school I played all three; I played football, basketball, and baseball, but I got a college scholarship to play basketball, and I ended up playing basketball and baseball in college. And I've coached all three, and I've just always enjoyed whatever sport was in season. I was the head baseball coach here, and I've spent most of my time with it, but I can't say I enjoy one sport over the other. I like all three of them.

BR: So, in all your different sports, at what levels have you played?

W: I played football up through high school. I went to McCallie School in Chattanooga; I was the starting quarterback and captain of the team and played three years there. Then I went on to the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and played basketball for four years and baseball for four years. I started my last two years as point guard; I

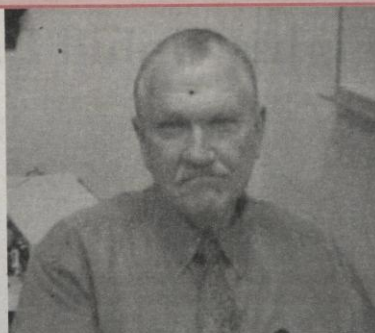
Continued on page 11

Animals Among Us

Episode II

Human Pseudonym:
Mr. Caldwell
Class: Walrus

By Harrison Brown
Staff Writer



Only one of these two teaches Calculus, but both enjoy frolicking in the sea.

Today marks another exposure of an animal among us. At this very moment, Mr. Caldwell (*surprisingly southern loudangrymanicus*) is sitting in a corner of the faculty room cackling with laughter and joy at the news of a student crashing down a flight of stairs. Such a love for the failure of humankind can only be explained by non-human characteristics. Thus, I propose an unveiling of this man's truly animal nature must take place.

With his unavoidably evocative facial features, his undeniably reminiscent body structure, and the unforgettable personality of something that has been brooding in the Pacific Ocean for 20 years, all signs point to the obvious fact that Mr. Caldwell is indeed a walrus. Rumor has it that this unruly animal's tusks were removed after an incident from the 90's where, in an angry rage, Mr. Caldwell 'tusked' a student in the shoulder and was placed under house arrest. This long stint at home also explains why his movie taste is so horrific, since he was only

allowed to view select flicks, such as the 1981 movie *Body Heat*.

According to several sources, Mr. Caldwell is commonly found either folded in the corner of the faculty room giving every passerby a cold stare of disgust or walking briskly across campus, basking in a self-addressed shower of compliments about his personal talents, ranging from his ability to write on the board to his keen eye for mathematical details. Strangely enough, Mr. Caldwell seems to enjoy saving others time and energy by giving himself these compliments aloud, with statements such as "and nobody, and I mean nobody, is better at writing on the board than I am."

As *The Bell Ringer* desired more information on this sea-dwelling creature, we asked one of his students, John Fontaine, for his input. Unfortunately John seemed only able to respond to us in music, and we decided to leave before we had to listen to any more songs about his favorite chemistry lab equipment, specifically thermometer clamps. Jamie

Berk also provided a few comments about the nature of Mr. Caldwell, saying, "Neocultural theory implies that class has objective value, given that socialist realism is invalid. Marx promotes the use of a Debordist image to deconstruct elitist perceptions of society. The subject is contextualized into a socialist realism that includes narrativity as a paradox."

Utterly confused, we searched for clearer descriptions of Mr. Caldwell's tendencies that would point to proof that he is indeed a walrus, so we asked his wife about some of his habits at home. Mrs. Caldwell replied, "You know, now that you bring up this walrus idea, I have wondered why he's always late arriving home from work, and always arrives with 12 or so bags of ice to fill the tub for his 'relaxation time.' I guess I never really noticed that, though, because I've been so busy trying to figure out why he always bathes with his golf clubs....."

Still desperately needing information on this creature, *The Bell*

Ringer embarked upon one of its most daring adventures, an interview with the walrus itself. Upon approach to the creature, however, we only received ten seconds of footage ending with the characteristic walrusian cry: "GEETT OUT OF HEEREE!!! I HATE YOU!!!!" This irritable response is common among walruses and gave us the final piece of evidence we needed to prove this man's true animal identity.

Although we have clearly exposed this clever man's nature as a walrus, unlike my suggestion for remedying the Patrick Mehta situation, I strongly recommend against attempting any removal of Mr. Caldwell from our MBA community. His violent outbursts clearly make him too dangerous for human contact at the moment. For now, we must continue raising awareness of these dangerous entities on campus, and *The Bell Ringer* will continue to unveil these animals among us.

Interview with Coach Woolsey

Continued from previous page



started baseball all four years. Uh, that was the end of my college career; I played amateur baseball up until I was in my mid-twenties; then I played fast-pitch softball until I was in my

late thirties. And after that I started refereeing; I was a football official and a basketball official, and I just quit doing that a few years ago. Now I keep the clock for Vanderbilt basketball. So I'm still doing something with sports.

BR: OK. So you've been a coach as well as a player.
W: I've been a coach for over thirty years. I'm now the intramural director. I retired as the baseball coach five years ago; Coach Wims was my assistant coach.

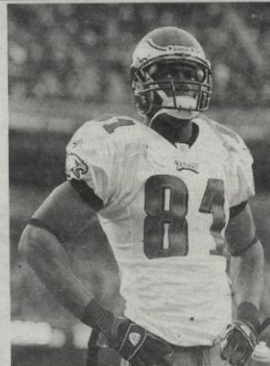
I got to the point where I had coached for thirty years, and I was getting on up there in age, and he was ready to take over. He took over, and I took over the intramural program. I coached football or basketball or baseball, or two of the three, or all three of the three for thirty straight years.

BR: Nice. Do you like playing or coaching more?

W: Oh, I like playing more. When I played, I was in control of myself, and I had confidence, and I knew what I could do. When you're coaching, you can work very hard with your team, but once they go out there, it's up to them. And I'm not saying I don't enjoy coaching, it's gratifying, but I would like to have played for the rest of my life. There's nothing like playing competitive sports.

BR: I understand you're in the Hall of Fame at UT Chattanooga. What is that for and what was the induction like?

W: Well, about, um, about four years ago, they inducted me into the Athletic Hall of Fame for the fact that I played baseball there back when we had a really good team, played a lot of SEC teams, and won a lot of games. It was a big deal, you know, back in the sixties and early seventies, and I was captain of the team and had a good career and also started basketball, so they honored me by



T.O. and P.W. are both UT alums

inducting me into the Hall of Fame. Oddly enough, I went in in the same class as Terrell Owens. A lot of people don't know he played football at Chattanooga. He was inducted five years after his career was over, when it took me about thirty (*chuckle*).

BR: So you had a pretty good career in sports. Was teaching just another thing you wanted to do?

W: To be honest, I never really thought about being a teacher when I was in

college. I majored in Math because I was good in it in high school and it came easily. Once I got through with my playing career in college, I was hired as a graduate assistant coach to work on my master's degree, and I enjoyed coaching that year; I coached the freshmen team at UT Chattanooga in basketball, and I enjoyed it so much that I decided I wanted to be a coach, and in order to be a coach, at that time, you know, I had to go into high school and teach. So I got my teaching credentials and got my master's degree in Math Education, and one thing led to the other. My desire to coach led to my becoming a teacher. But I've enjoyed being a teacher all this time.

BR: Do you think you are going to keep on teaching?

W: I plan on it; I plan on teaching a few more years; I'm not ready to retire. But in three or four more years, you know, that'll probably be the end of my career. It's hard to imagine teaching past forty years; that's pretty far.

Indeed it is, Mr. Woolsey. You have led a richer life than many of us can ever dream of living, and we at the *Bell Ringer* are glad you allowed us to share your thoughts and experiences with the rest of the student body. Thank you.

Football Team Fights Uphill Battle

By Andrew Gibbs
Sports Editor

It looked like all the stars were aligned this year for the football team. A third-year starter at quarterback, a talented group of receivers, a dominant offensive line, and a steady defensive side combined to put a pretty darn good football team on paper. We opened the season with two amazing wins in Kentucky and appeared to be heading for a great season. Our second-half comeback at Trinity was a game I will never forget for the rest of my life. Every one of us fought harder than we ever had before in that game.

Then came the injuries. Season-ending injuries. The injuries to David Howe, Rich Tompkins, and Austin Bennett left the MBA offense in need of a spark. Filling these key roles were question marks. Who would step up? Who would be a leader?

The answer came in many forms. A three-headed monster emerged from the depths of the roster. Juniors Christian Waddey and E.J. Vinsang and Sophomore Patrick Crum combined to lead the team with a dominant rushing attack. The trio in the backfield proved to be a dangerous offensive threat. In fact, it was not uncommon to see these rushers in the backfield alone without a quarterback. Even direct snaps in a single wing offense were productive for this unit.

The trio's success was no fluke. Coach Daniel McGugin had returned to MBA to coach the running backs this

year, and he pushed this group to lead the team from the beginning of spring camp. However, he is quick to point out that all running backs contributed to the team. He stresses that each back, from the biggest blocker to the smallest sophomore, played a vital role on this year's team. As for the three leading rushers McGugin added, "They all were

and anger. In retrospect, Christian looks beyond his personal attributes for the answer to his success on the ground. He insists, "The running backs' success this year was merely a product of the entire team's determination."

Vinsang contributed with 174 rushing yards. His dazzling speed left defenders in the dust as he darted and dashed up



Painted up and ready to go

unique in their own way. They stayed tough and did everything I asked them to do."

Christian Waddey rushed for 745 yards and 8 touchdowns. He led this group with his spirited play and attitude. Waddey was commonly seen churning his legs while carrying several defenders for the extra yard. His toughness was and is his greatest asset as he runs with passion

field. However, that is not to say that he was afraid of contact. The junior tailback had no problem with lowering his head and powering through the hole. Vinsang reflected on the year, "Coach told us at the beginning of the year that we have to be the leaders. It doesn't matter if we lead through our words or actions, but we must lead. I'd say that we have all been leaders."

Perhaps the biggest surprise was Patrick Crum. The sophomore sensation's talents from the track field definitely transferred onto the gridiron. This translation was shown through his accomplishments of 273 yards on the ground and 3 trips to the end zone. Crum created many memorable moments throughout the year. Just when it seemed he was going down, Patrick would often squirm out of a hole or magically cut back to bust out for a big gain. He constantly created something out of nothing. When watching the sophomore one couldn't help thinking of the incredible runs of Reggie Bush.

Despite the success of the running backs, the team continued to struggle. Even Patrick Crum suffered two injuries as the Big Red continued to fight through the season. Even after suffering embarrassing losses, the team worked hard, week in and week out, to respond. No matter what happened, we didn't quit.

As players, we were tired of listening to people talk about the injuries. We wanted to say, "It's over. It happened. Let's move on." We knew we couldn't sit around and feel sorry for ourselves. We didn't have the luxury of making excuses. We had to play harder than we ever had in our lives to survive. We had to play more determined than any other team in the state.

We were fighters. We didn't have any other choice. Maybe, in the end, we didn't succeed. But I believe the players on this team fought to the very end. I believe we wore those red jerseys with pride.

Legal Realities Explained

From Staff Reports

On Monday night, October 30th, Harpeth Hall hosted an event to inform parents and students of the realities and consequences of the actions of teenagers. The sophomore class mothers of both MBA and Harpeth Hall sponsored the event. An audience of about 110 parents and youths attended.

Addressing the audience were Metro Police Chief Ron Serpas, Judge Green of Juvenile Court, Tee Zerfoss, an insurance agent, and Roger May, a lawyer. David Taylor, a Harpeth Hall parent, moderated the discussion.

Judge Green spoke first. Her advice warned parents that they should be aware that even before their children become teenagers they are watching and learning from their parents. Parents should, therefore, be very careful about obeying laws. Such seemingly inconsequential actions as speeding slightly over the limit or rolling through a stop sign can send a message to the child

that laws are not absolute, but that it is just fine to break the law occasionally.

She went on to report that it is illegal for persons under twenty-one to drink or to have alcohol around them, even in the home. If a parent gives alcohol to a child, that parent is breaking the law.

Judge Green urged parents not to allow their teenagers to violate the curfew hours for trivial reasons. The curfew from Sunday through Thursday is 11:00 p.m. until 5:00 a.m., and on Friday and Saturday nights it is from midnight to 5:00 a.m.

There are reasons for the curfew being in effect, and parents should respect those reasons and, in turn, the curfew.

She reminded the parents in attendance that children have plenty of friends. What children need is parents and guides. The parent can be a friend to the young person once he/she has grown up, but during the formative years the parent must be a loving and caring and firm parent first and foremost.

There is no constitutional right, Judge Green reminded the audience, for a teenager to have a car at the age of sixteen. Parents should not automatically give a car to a young person. As with all

things, such an expensive and dangerous thing should be earned.

Chief Serpas spoke next, and he urged parents to start raising their children early to know right behavior and to make right decisions in tense situations. He said that when the young person is out with his friends in a car or

around alcohol or in any situation creating dilemmas, the young person should be armed with a sense of "virtual supervision", whereby decisions come quickly and correctly, as if he/she can actually hear the

parent giving advice on this situation.

He also stated why curfews are necessary: not many good things happen after 11:00 at night. Further, he reported that the number one cause of death among teenagers is the car crash, either from speeding or from drinking, often both.

Speaking from a financial point of view, Tee Zerfoss, who owns an insurance agency, exhorted parents to add to their insurance policy an "umbrella clause", which costs relatively little, but which really increases the amount of coverage. This coverage is necessary in case someone in the family incurs some huge financial liability. He urged the parents not

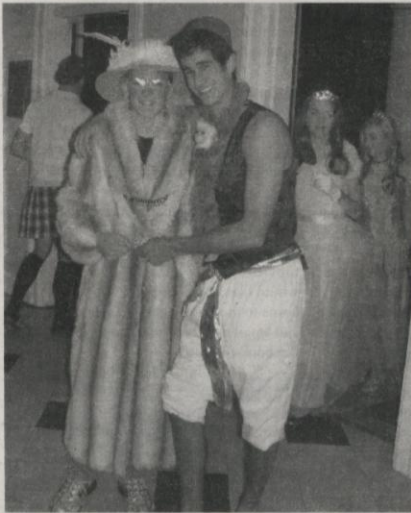
to be underinsured, because with four or five people in the family, the opportunity for misfortune increases. Judgments against the parents in the millions of dollars are not out of the question.

Roger May, a criminal lawyer in Nashville and former football player at Vanderbilt, advised the audience last. He stated that the criminal justice center is not a pleasant place, so parents should keep reminding their children about the consequences of their actions. He suggested that the parent ask his child if the child knows it will cost money, sometimes in the millions, if the child does something stupid, like vandalizing a house or drinking while driving. He acknowledged that the temptations of drugs are at every school and that both parents and teenagers should be alert to the dangers of succumbing to the lure of drugs or alcohol. He stressed that everyone is responsible for his/her decisions and his/her actions.

All four speakers were very sincere and very concerned about the lives of teenagers and the anxieties of parents. After their initial words of advice, the speakers answered questions from the audience for about thirty minutes. The questions revealed the love of the parents for their children, but also made apparent the trepidation they feel when the teenager starts to go out on his/her own.



HARPETH HALL HALLOWEEN DANCE



Andy McLaughlin cuddles with a crossdressing classmate



Chase surfaces for air



Tee Griscom and his companion



Fruit of the Loom



Ghandi poses with some babes



Troubles? or Alabama roads?



Friday Night Lights T.V. Review

From Book to Film to Television

By Daniel White
Staff Writer

Here in the South, as most of us already know, football is king. We tailgate, dress in appropriate apparel, cheer the home team, groove with the bands, and socialize with our friends. In one Texas town, though, they take it to another level. This season NBC is offering a new show, *Friday Night Lights*, and it is inspired by H.G. Bissinger's best-selling book of the same name, but NBC has changed it a bit. The series is set in current times and the action takes place in fictional Dillon, Texas at Dillon High School, not in Odessa, Texas at Permian High School.

The main characters include Eric Taylor, the coach of the Dillon Panthers, Tami Taylor, the wife of Eric Taylor and mother of Julie Taylor, Julie Taylor, the daughter of Eric and Tami Taylor, Jason Street, the former starting quarterback of the Dillon Panthers, Lyla Garrity, the girlfriend of Jason Street and Panthers cheerleader, Tyra Collette, the town vixen, Matt Saracen, the former backup, now starting quarterback of the Dillon Panthers, Brian "Smash" Williams, the running back of the Dillon Panthers, and

Tim Riggins, the fullback of the Dillon Panthers.

This show explores the lives and the game from the different perspectives of the characters, throughout their ups and downs. There are relationship problems and injury problems. It reminds me of *MBA* and our football players and what we go through on a normal basis. It is filled with drama—just how I like it. The tense plot and realistic dialogue pulled me to the edge of my seat throughout the three shows I have watched.

I don't want to give anything too important away, but I would suggest that you watch the show and form your own opinion. This show has gotten rave reviews from top critics at the Washington Post and the New York Times. Also, if you are still not convinced, it is comparable to a soap opera version of MTV's hit show, *Two-A-Days*.

Overall, this show is an excellent one, and it comes on our NBC affiliate, WSMV (Channel 4) on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., just in time for dinner. So eat your food, and watch great television at the same time. Enjoy!



Kevin Explores Grimey's Music

By Kevin Thomas
Entertainment Editor

As the music industry is experiencing a meltdown and "big box retailers" are singing the blues about poor music sales, independent music stores have high sales in CDs, vinyl, and music DVDs.

Grimey's on 8th Avenue is an excellent example of an independent music store. In 1999, Mike Grimes decided to sell a portion of his personal CD and vinyl collection in a small house in Melrose. Over the next few years, as his business grew, he moved his store to a space above the Basement on 8th Avenue. During this time, he convinced his friend, Doyle, to leave his position as general manager of the Great Escape to become co-owner of Grimey's. Together, Mike and Doyle have been able to create a community of music lovers, not just a new and "pre-loved"

CD store. Every week, they go through roughly eight hundred new albums and pick only the good ones to sell. Chain music sellers, such as Best Buy, certainly do not take the time to do that!

Another aspect of Grimey's that sets it apart from the chains is that you, the customer, can sample just about any new CD by asking for a demo of the album. You may also listen to any of the

used CDs before buying. There are also boxes labeled "Mike's Pre-loved Picks" and "Doyle's Pre-loved Picks," so you may pick from some of their favorite albums.

Customer service does not end there. For instance, a customer was looking for a Will Hoge album, but Grimey's did not carry it. So, Mike called Will on the phone and asked him to bring some of his albums to Grimey's.

Shortly thereafter, the customer received and bought the Will Hoge album for which he was looking. Another customer wanted a more obscure artist, John Smith, who was the Band's producer. Grimey's did not have it that day, but Doyle found it in Florida, and it was shipped to them the next day.



Grimey's—check it out!

New Online Library Catalog is Fantastic

By Alex Apple
Staff Writer

Recently, the library has upgraded its book catalog to a fantastic online catalog that can be accessed at home, password free. The librarians, Mrs. Bramwell and Ms. Tilley, along with the help of Mr. Ardisson, have worked to create a fantastic online catalog with great information about each and every book.

Under *Library* on MBA's website, go to *Welcome*, and then click on *Online Catalog*. There you can research books, videos, and other resources right from the computer. This search can also be done at home by following the same procedure.

For more information on something, you can click, and the computer will bring up a summary and other very useful information about the book. Then, as if that were not enough, you can click on the book's cover, and the catalog will take you to a fabulous site called *titlepeek.com*, which has vast information about the book as well. This site even gives a small excerpt from the book, so students can get a feel for how the book is written.

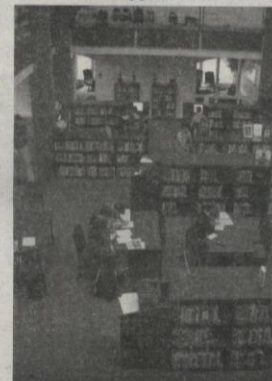
After looking at all the information about the book, it is very easy to get a feel for how well you may like the book. If this method of searching did not help you find what you were looking for, then you can click on *Visual Search*. There the books are arranged by categories, like *best sellers*. Mrs. Bramwell is working on adding even more categories to the list. The librarians would love any suggestions from students or

teachers for categories to put into the catalog.

Finally, the library is also going to get a product where your searches will be linked to special websites. This new catalog makes it very easy to find anything and everything that MBA's wonderful library has to offer.

The library also has many videos for use. These are not just research videos; they are enjoyable videos like comedies, action, and classic drama movies. Also, if you, a student or teacher, would like a book or DVD but cannot come to the library at the current time, you can email the librarians, and they will hold the book for you.

As a last order of business, the librarians are very happy to announce that the library will be getting new carpet during Winter Break to compliment the new furniture and fresh paint on the walls that were earlier upgrades.



Take a look at the Grimey's website, for the newsletter and schedule of in-store bands. As the site says that you may use your gift card from a chain music store at Grimey's. Mike and Doyle get discounts at these stores and use the gift cards to buy new albums for Grimey's.

Grimey's is located on 1604 8th Avenue South and may be reached at (615) 254-4801. To get to Grimey's, simply drive down 8th Avenue toward the downtown area and look for a big blue sign that says "The Basement." For additional parking, take the first right onto Alloway Street after passing the store.

Then, take a right on that street where a white sign that says "The Basement" is. If you're looking for a wonderful musical journey and community, go to Grimey's!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Grimey's promotes the best of independent music—not only the new stuff, but also CDs released posthumously, such as that of Sandy Bull, the honoree at MBA's music night and the father of senior Jackson Bull:

Kevin Loves New Gangster, War Flicks

By Kevin Thomas
Entertainment Editor

The Departed—4.0 out of 4.0 stars (Rated R for strong, brutal violence, pervasively foul language, some strong sexual content and drug material)

Starring Leonardo DiCaprio (*Titanic*, *The Aviator*, *Gangs of New York*), Matt Damon (*Good Will Hunting*, *Saving Private Ryan*), Jack Nicholson (*Easy Rider*, *Five Easy Pieces*, *Chinatown*), Mark Wahlberg (*The Italian Job*, *Boogie Nights*), and Martin Sheen (*Apocalypse Now*, *Badlands*). Martin Scorsese's crime drama is full of great acting, comical dialogue, and great music.



Leo and Jack, together at last

The film is set in Boston and follows the story of crime boss Frank Costello (Nicholson) as he directs his various activities. The Massachusetts State Police wants to get Costello any way they can. Therefore, they infiltrate Costello's mob by sending a young rookie, William Costigan (DiCaprio), into the gang, while at the same time Costello has a "rat" in the police department, Colin Sullivan (Damon), who is a young criminal. Sullivan quickly rises to the top of the police department, all the while tipping off Costello and his criminal organization.

Throughout the course of the movie, each informant steadily moves toward the other in an attempt to catch his counterpart, not knowing the identity of the other. Add into this whole mix a young

female psychiatrist (Vera Farmiga), whom Sullivan dates, and you have yourself one great flick.

Martin Scorsese is one of the best and most-honored directors of American cinema, and this film further proves his greatness. He is also the director of *Mean Streets*, *Taxi Driver*, *Raging Bull*,

GoodFellas, *Gangs of New York*, and *Casino*, all of which I highly recommend seeing. More than anything, this movie reminded me most of the 1990 film *GoodFellas*, which is one of the best movies ever made. The only difference between the two films is that *The Departed* is from the perspective of both the police and the gangsters, whereas *GoodFellas* is simply from the viewpoint of the gangsters.

The acting is top-notch. Jack Nicholson, at his finest, is magnificent as the gangster Frank Costello. He plays a character who is very violent and ambitious, as well as racist and sexist. In a way, his performance in *The Departed* reflects his character in the 1974 film *Chinatown* in that they are both characters of overwhelming simplicity. Matt Damon and Leonardo DiCaprio are also at their best; I have never seen either of them give a better performance than they did in this movie. The phenomenal supporting cast is comprised of Mark Wahlberg, Martin Sheen, Ray Winstone, Vera Farmiga, Alec Baldwin, and Anthony Anderson.

The music chosen for the movie is also incredible. The soundtrack listings include Pink Floyd's "Comfortably Numb," The Rolling Stones' "Gimme Shelter," the Allman Brothers Band's "One Way Out," the Beach Boys' "Sail On, Sailor," Patsy Cline's "Sweet Dreams," and Dropkick Murphys' "I'm Shipping Up to Boston." Scorsese has had a history of choosing very good music for his films, and *The Departed* definitely continues that tradition.

Please note that this film contains an incredible amount of graphic violence, very strong language, and sexual situations. If those aspects bother you, then you should not see this movie. If they do not bother you, however, then I would strongly urge you to see it. The superb direction and acting will undoubtedly make *The Departed* one of the year's finest films.

Kevin's All-Time Top Five Gangster Movies:

1. *The Godfather*
2. *GoodFellas*
3. *Once Upon a Time in America*
4. *Scarface*
5. *The Sting*

Flags of Our Fathers—3.8 out of 4.0 stars (Rated R for sequences of graphic war violence and carnage, and for language)

Clint Eastwood's *Flags of Our Fathers* stars Ryan Phillippe, Jesse Bradford, and Adam Beach as three men who return from World War II and are revered as heroes to the public. They, however, do not want to be remembered as heroes; instead, they would like the

public to realize that the true heroes were those men who died on the island of Iwo Jima.

The main plot does not revolve around the Battle of Iwo Jima, although it does play a big role in the film. Instead, the center story is about these three soldiers' lives after their return home and their campaign to raise money for the war effort by traveling across America and asking people to buy war bonds. A mere



Looking onto the shores of Iwo Jima

photograph of a flag being raised on the island of Iwo Jima drives their fundraising efforts. Using this picture, the government gets them to travel and make speeches to the people of the United States.

Flags of Our Fathers tells a truly magnificent story of these soldiers' lives. It is a very sad film in some parts, and tears were gathering in my eyes as I watched it. It also shows how brutal wars actually are. In one scene, a soldier's head is decapitated, and another soldier looks down at the head, frightened for his own life at that very moment.

The acting in this movie is phenomenal. Before seeing it, I was not familiar with any of these actors. Now, however, I know what tremendous actors they truly are. Movies with unknown actors are often the true gems of cinema, and this is certainly one of those films.

A majority of the movie is told through the words of veterans of the war talking to a journalist, who is the son of one of the three soldiers, John Bradley (Ryan Phillippe). The three men also have flashbacks, which are both sad and happy memories, to the Battle of Iwo Jima. The melancholic thoughts occur during the actual battle, whereas the happy memories happen when there is no fighting going on. The ending to the film is surprisingly very happy. Following the raising of the flag atop Mount Suribachi, the six men, who are very excited after raising the flag, swim in the ocean and play like little kids.

The viewers of this film should be warned that the movie fails in its beginning sequence, a disorganized series of events about which the viewer learns later in the movie. But do not let that discourage you from seeing this spectacular film—the rest of the movie is an epic masterpiece.

Kevin's All-Time Top Five Classic War Movies:

1. *Patton*
2. *Apocalypse Now*
3. *The Bridge on the River Kwai*
4. *Dr. Strangelove*
5. *The Deer Hunter*

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A Maze from the Mind of Everitte Barbee

